



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

March 11, 2013

# Notice of Proposed Action

## Bessey Travel Management Review Project

Bessey Ranger District, Nebraska National Forests & Grasslands, Halsey Nebraska



### PURPOSE AND NEED:

Since the implementation of the Travel Management Plan in 2010, Bessey Ranger District has received numerous comments from other agencies and the public exhibiting a need for additional motorized access to several areas of the forest for hunting, fishing, general recreation and other uses. In addition, implementation of the Travel Management Plan has concentrated access on roads provided on the current Motor Vehicle Use Map, thereby concentrating effects of motorized travel on those roads.

This project would address access needs and potentially reduce effects of concentrated travel by allowing motorized use of certain existing user-created routes in areas of National Forest System lands on the Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest and the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest.

### PROPOSED ACTION:

The Bessey Ranger District is proposing to provide additional motorized access on portions of Samuel R McKelvie National Forest and the Nebraska National Forest-Bessey Division by opening existing user-created routes and adding them to the 2014 Motor Vehicle Use Map. These routes are identified on the attached maps.

In addition, the Bessey Ranger District proposes to remove existing seasonal closures on routes 201, 202, 205, and 209 on the Bessey Division and provide motorized access to the popular dispersed recreation site surrounding Windmill 25.

On the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest, it also proposes to open routes 622 and/or 623 to mixed use, thereby allowing ATV access in addition to highway-vehicle access in the area surrounding Merritt Reservoir.

## COMMENT PROCESS:

The Forest Service encourages submittal of substantive comments regarding the Bessey Travel Management Review Project, along with supporting information that the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision.

To provide additional information about the project, the Forest Service will be hosting public meetings at the following locations and times:

- March 19, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Thedford, Nebraska at Brahmer's Steakhouse, 39359 Hwy 2, Thedford, NE, 69166
- March 20, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Grand Island, Nebraska at the Howard Johnson Hotel Riverside, 3333 Ramada Rd, Grand Island, NE 68801
- March 21, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Valentine, Nebraska at Niobrara Lodge, 803 East Highway 20, Valentine, NE 69201
- March 28, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Alliance, Nebraska at the Alliance City Library, 1750 Sweetwater Ave, Alliance, NE 69301

Your comments will help us prepare an environmental assessment of the proposed action. The assessment will be used to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). If a FONSI is prepared, it will be sent to those who commented, along with the environmental assessment and a proposed decision.

To be considered for the environmental assessment, comments must be received no later than 30 calendar days after publication of the legal notice for the Proposed Action in the North Platte Telegraph. **This will be the final opportunity to comment on this project.**

Written Comments must be submitted to:

**Tim Buskirk, District Ranger**  
Bessey Ranger District  
40637 River Loop, P.O. Box 39  
Halsey, NE 69142

Facsimile comments may be sent to (308) 533-2310. For those commenting in person, the business hours for Bessey Ranger District are: Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m. CST, excluding holidays.

Electronic comments must be submitted to [comments-rocky-mountain-nebraska@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-rocky-mountain-nebraska@fs.fed.us). Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc). Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

Names and addresses of those who comment will become part of the public record for this proposed action and will be considered part of the public record for this project. The public record will be available for public inspection and may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

Anonymous comments will be accepted and considered. However, to become eligible to appeal decisions regarding this proposal, an individual or organization must provide the following information:

- Name and Address
- Title of Proposed Action
- Substantive Comments as identified in 36 CFR 215.2
- Signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comment(s)
- For multiple names or multiple organizations: signature of authorized individual representing the organization
- For individual members of organizations who wish to have appeal eligibility as an individual, substantive comments must be submitted individually.

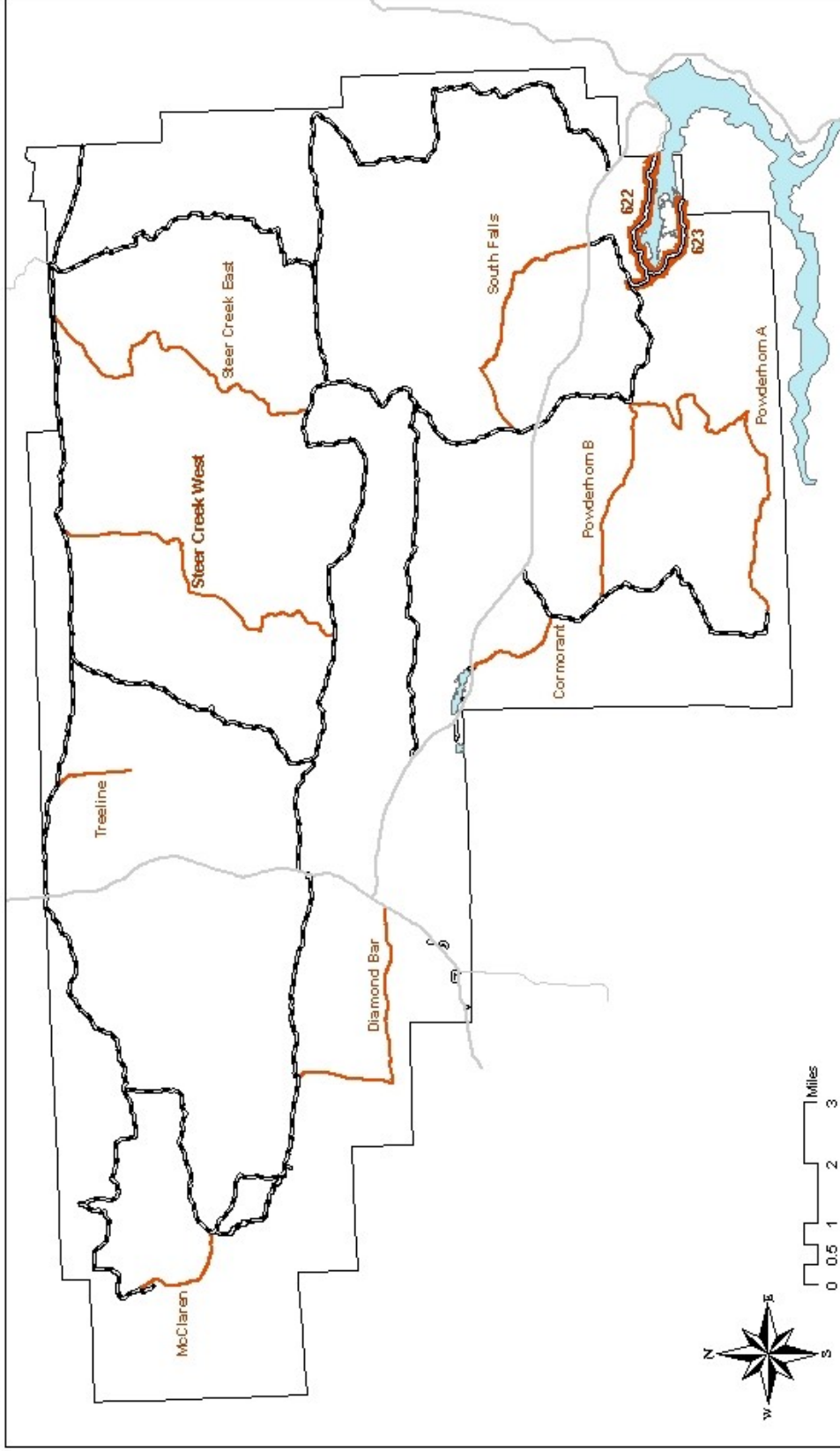
For further information regarding the Bessey Travel Management Review Project, please contact Stephani Rust, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, at 308-432-0324 or by email at [sdrust@fs.fed.us](mailto:sdrust@fs.fed.us).





# Routes Proposed for Additional Motorized Access in Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest

03/11/2013



## Current MVUM Roads

- Roads Open to All Vehicles
- Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only
- State or US Highway
- Other Public Roads

- Routes Proposed for Additional Motorized Access
- Routes Proposed to be Opened to All Vehicles

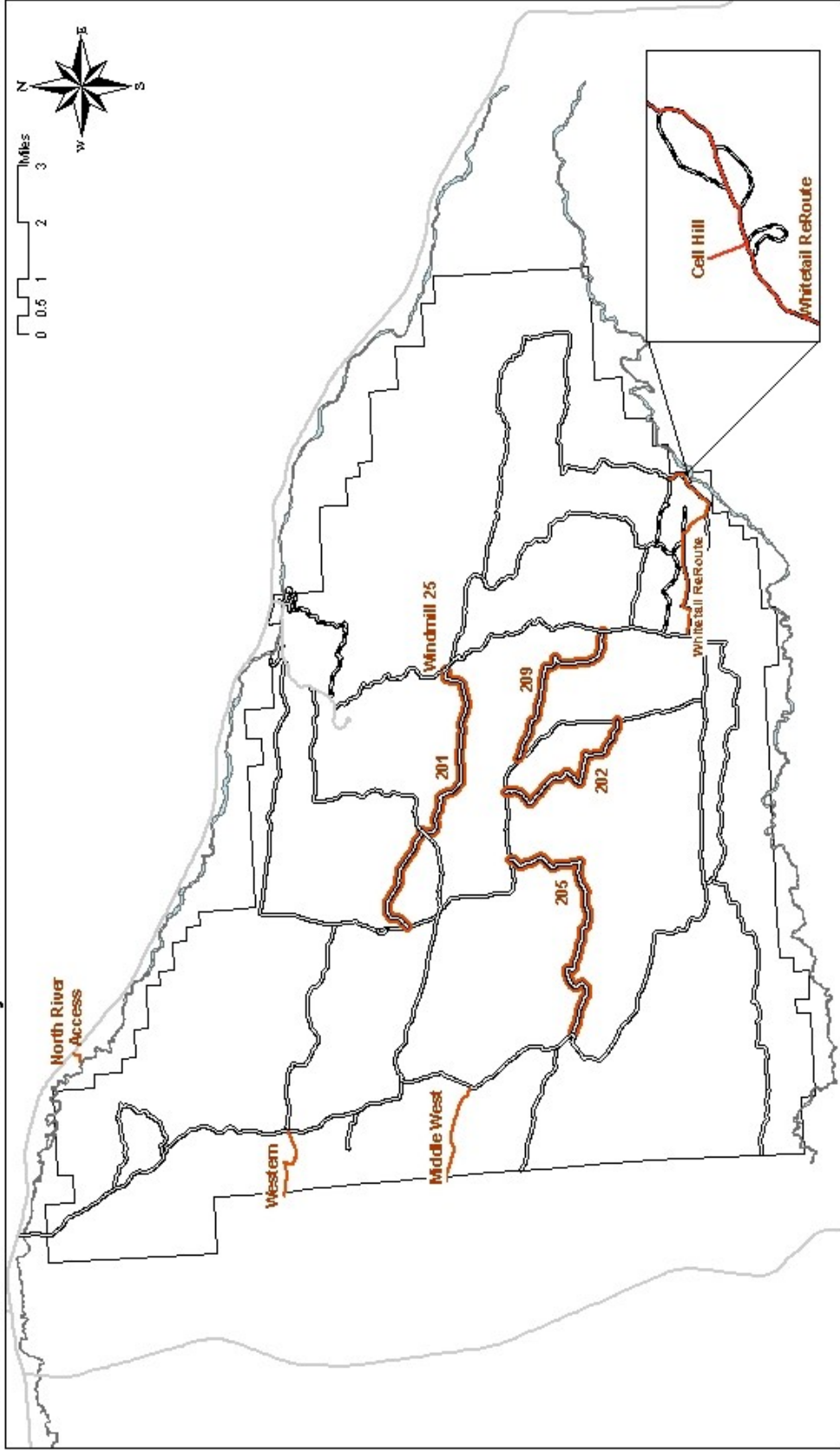
This document does not serve any legal capacity regarding motor vehicle access. Please refer to a Motor Vehicle Use Map for rules regarding legal motorized travel within Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest. A free copy of the Motor Vehicle Use Map may be obtained at [Bulle](http://Bulle); Ranger District 40457 River Loop, Hallett, NE 68142.

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# Routes Proposed for Additional Motorized Access in Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest

03/11/2013



**Routes Proposed for Additional Motorized Access**  
**Routes Proposed for Removal of Seasonal Closure**

**Current MVUM Roads**  
Roads Open to All Vehicles  
Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only  
State or US Highway  
Other Public Roads

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